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Finding Aid to the Lawrence Root Waldron Papers

Waldron, Lawrence Root (L.R.) , 1875-1954

Lawrence Root Waldron Papers, 1923-1957

Record Group 19.33.1

1.5 linear feet

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OVERVIEW

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Related resources:

[Lawrence Root Waldron Papers, 1901-1954, Mss. 36, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.](#)

[Dickinson Sub-Experiment/Research Station](#)

BIOGRAPHY

Lawrence Root (L.R.) Waldron was born October 20, 1875 to David S. and Louisa (Root) Waldron, near Ionia, Michigan in Ronald Township. He grew up and matriculated in 1896 at the North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo, where his brother C. B. Waldron (the first staff member of NDAC) was on the faculty. Upon graduation in 1899 with a B.S. degree, L.R. was hired by NDAC as an instructor in zoology and biology. He taught until 1905, although he did take time off to earn his Masters at the University of Michigan in 1902. Upon his return to NDAC he was an assistant professor in the

department of botany and zoology. He married Emma A. Grafenstein (of Jamestown) on August 14, 1903. Emma was a native of Michigan and moved to Jamestown with her parents. After her parents died, she made her home with a sister, Mrs., Thomas Hall, whose husband was in the newspaper business in Fargo.

In 1905, Waldron was appointed superintendent of the new Dickinson Experiment Station. He was successful in establishing this new substation, and from there did extensive research on grasses, alfalfa, and dry-land farming (similar to his brother's academic research). In 1916, Waldron was transferred to the main Experiment Station on the NDAC campus and became a plant breeder, a position he held his entire career. In 1928, he earned his Ph.D. degree from Cornell University.

Dr. Waldron is best known for his development of Ceres, Rival and Mida strains of wheat. These were developed as part of his program to combat rust, drought, and climatic conditions. Waldron was also published in many publications, contributing both popular and scientific articles (70+). In 1933, he was accorded the high honor of election to the Linnean Society of London¹. In addition, he was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Naturalists, The Royal Microscope Society of London, American Genetic Association, Sigma Xi, and the Minnesota Horticultural Society.

In 1952, following fifty plus years of service to North Dakota Agricultural College, Dr. Waldron officially retired. He died on August 22, 1954 in Fargo and is buried beside his wife at Highland Cemetery in Jamestown. Dr. Waldron and his wife had five children: Heber, Frederick, Charles, Lois, and Ruth Ann.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The L.R. Waldron papers consist of correspondence from 1923-1957. Primarily the correspondence is arranged alphabetically and chronologically, in the original order used by Dr. Waldron. Within the alphabetic arrangement is correspondence with a number of colleagues, such as Dr. E.R. Ausemus (Agronomist at University Farm); J.C. Brinsmade, Jr. (Assistant Agronomist at Experiment Station); J.A. Clark (5 folders, Senior Agronomist, Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA); J.B. Harrington (Professor of Field Husbandry, University of Saskatchewan); H.B. Humphrey (Principal Pathologist); M.A. McCall (Head Agronomist and Assistant Chief of Bureau, USDA); T. Onufrijchuk (Russian USDA employee); John H. Parker (Professor of Crop Improvement, Kansas State College); R.F. Peterson (Officer in Charge, Dominion Laboratory of General Breeding, Manitoba); Ralph Smith (Acting Agronomist, Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA); H.S. Smith (Junior Administrative Assistant, Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA); and H.L. Walster (Agronomist at NDAC). The papers also contain articles by and about Dr. Waldron, as well as newspaper clippings, speeches, and four photographs of seed results.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

- 1/1 FINDING AID
- 1/2 AA-AL (1939-1953)
 - Correspondence
 - Orders

¹ The Linnean Society of London is considered the world's premiere society for the study and dissemination of taxonomy and natural history. It was founded in 1788, named after the Swedish naturalist, Carolus Linnaeus. The mission of the society is to promote study of the biological sciences, with emphasis on taxonomy, biodiversity and sustainability. The society awards medals and grants to individuals and organizations in the field.

- 1/3 AM-AZ (1942-1954)
 - Correspondence
 - Orders
- 1/4 DR. E.R. AUSEMUS (1938-1954)
 - Correspondence dealing with wheat research, nurseries, and results
- 1/5 BA-BN (1938-1953)
 - Correspondence
- 1/6 BI-BQ (1938-1953)
 - Correspondence
 - Order for a thresher
- 1/7 BR-BZ (1943-1954)
 - Correspondence
- 1/8 J.C. BRINSMADE, JR. (1936-1941)
 - Correspondence dealing with plant breeding
- 1/9 CA-CG (1930-1954)
 - Correspondence
 - Resports
 - Information requests from Campbell Tag Co.
- 1/10 CH-CZ (1941-1954)
 - Correspondence
- 1/10 J.A. CLARK (1937)
 - Correspondence dealing with breeding and results
 - Papers
 - Photographs (4, from 1936)
- 1/11 J.A. CLARK (1938)
 - Correspondence dealing with breeding and results
 - Application for Regulation of Improved Crop Varieties
 - Data tables for stem rust
 - USDA Government Bill of Lading
 - Tables for bushel yields
 - Tables for grain varieties
 - Tables for baking results
- 1/12 J.A. CLARK (1939)
 - Correspondence dealing with breeding and results
 - Experiment tables
 - Newspaper clipping
- 1/13 J.A. CLARK (1940)
 - Correspondence dealing with breeding and results

- Handwritten experiment cards (2, from Arizona)
- 1/14 J.A. CLARK (1948-1950)
- Correspondence dealing with breeding and results
- 1/15 DA-DH (1940-1954)
- Correspondence
 - Handwritten experiments
 - Bill from Davison Bike Shop (for power seeder repair)
 - Advertisement for the “Handy-worker”
- 1/16 DI-DZ (1940-1957)
- Correspondence
 - Advertisement for a scale
- 1/17 E (1938-1949)
- Correspondence
- 1/18 FA-FK (1938-1953)
- Correspondence
 - Advertisement for office cleaners
- 1/19 FL-FZ (1937-1954)
- Correspondence
- 1/20 GA-GG (1930-1954)
- Correspondence
- 1/21 GF-GZ (1930-1954)
- Correspondence
 - Spanish correspondence (about farming techniques)
 - Page from The House of Gurney, Inc.
 - Advertisement for Gustafson Seed Grain Treater
- 1/22 HA-HE (1937-1953)
- Correspondence
 - Experiment charts
 - Postcard (request for seed sample)
- 1/23 HF-HZ (1938-1954)
- Correspondence
 - Report
 - Experiments
 - Postcard (request for seed sample)
- 1/24 J.B. HARRINGTON (1930-1952)
- Correspondence dealing with plant experiments and results
 - Experiment tables

- 1/25 H.B. HUMPHREY (1932-1937)
 - Correspondence dealing with nurseries and results
- 1/26 I (1939-1954)
 - Correspondence
- 1/27 KA-KE (1938-1954)
 - Correspondence
- 1/28 KF-KZ (1938-1954)
 - Correspondence
- 1/29 LA-LN (1935-1954)
 - Correspondence
 - List of guests present at L.R. Waldron dinner
- 1/30 LO-LZ (1948-1953)
 - Correspondence
- 1/31 LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON (1923-1954)
 - Correspondence
 - Annual meeting agendas
 - Newspaper clippings
 - Paper about Dr. Waldron's election to the Linnean Society of London

Box 2

- 2/1 MA-MH (1932-1954)
 - Correspondence
 - List of wheats sent to Dr. K. Miczynski
- 2/2 MI-MZ (1938-1952)
 - Correspondence
- 2/3 M.A. M^CCALL (1928-1942)
 - Correspondence dealing with fiscal money allotments
- 2/4 M^C (1939-1953)
 - Correspondence
- 2/5 N (1938-1954)
 - Correspondence
- 2/6 O (1941-1954)
 - Correspondence
- 2/7 ONUFRIICHUK (1948-1955)
 - Letters
 - Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral

- Correspondence with Shebeski
 - Recommendation from R.F. Peterson
 - Recommendation from Frankfort Cold Stones
 - Russian plant handbook
 - Production of speltoid mutants
- 2/8 PA-PG (1936-1951)
- Correspondence
- 2/9 PH-PZ (1936-1954)
- Correspondence
 - Bulletin from Northwest Crop Improvement Association
- 2/10 R. F. PETERSON (1949-1953)
- Correspondence dealing with wheat trials
 - Newspaper clippings
- 2/11 JOHN H. PARKER (1930-1936)
- Correspondence dealing with wheat conditions
 - Newspaper clippings from Kansas City Times
 - Program from Kansas Weather-Crops Seminar
 - Tenmarq Wheat
 - Kawvale Wheat
- 2/12 Q (1930-1952)
- Correspondence
 - Increase of new wheats
- 2/13 RA-RN (1938-1953)
- Correspondence
- 2/15 RO-RZ (1941-1951)
- Correspondence
 - Samples from USSR Institute of Plant Industry
- 2/16 RALPH SMITH (1935-1950)
- Correspondence dealing with wheat results
- 2/17 SA-SB (1939-1949)
- Correspondence
- 2/18 SC-SE (1940-1954)
- Correspondence
 - Searle Grain Company Limited, Vol. 23, No. 2
- 2/19 SF-SM (1938-1953)
- Correspondence
- 2/20 SN-ST (1938-1954)

- Correspondence
 - Advertisement for Spenser Stereoscopic Microscope No. 23
 - Advertisement for a nursery thresher from The Specialty Mfg. Co.
- 2/21 SU-SZ (1938-1953)
- Correspondence
- 2/22 H.S. SMITH (1931-1936)
- Correspondence dealing with appointments, allotments, and bills
- 2/23 TA-TG (1931-1952)
- Correspondence
- 2/24 TH-TN (1938-1951)
- Correspondence
- 2/25 TO-TZ (1940-1951)
- Correspondence
- 2/26 U & V (1938-1951)
- Correspondence
- 2/27 WA-WG (1938-1953)
- Correspondence
- 2/28 WH-WN (1938-1954)
- Correspondence
- 2/29 H.L. WALSTER (1929-1952)
- Correspondence dealing with wheat breeding
- 2/30 X-Y-Z (1938-1950)
- Correspondence